

CLAIMS

1. A method for milking animals in a milking station (9) including a milking machine (14) for milking said animals and a first feeding device (21) for feeding said animals
5 intermittently or continuously with feed, said method comprising the steps of:

- allowing a milking animal to enter said milking station (9);
- feeding said milking animal in said milking station intermittently or continuously with feed by means of said first
10 feeding device (21); and

- milking said milking animal in said milking station (9) by means of said milking machine (14), wherein said method is characterized by the step of:

- terminating said feeding of said milking animal at a non-final stage of said milking in order to secure that said milking animal has terminated to consume the feed when said milking is finished.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein

- said step of milking includes the further steps of cleaning the teats of said milking animal, applying teat cups to the teats of said milking animal, and drawing milk from said milking animal; and

- said non-final stage of said milking, at which said feeding of said milking animal is terminated, is related to any of said further steps of cleaning the teats of said milking animal, applying teat cups to the teats of said milking animal, and drawing milk from said milking animal.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of milking includes the step of drawing milk individually from each of the teats of said milking animal; and

5 - said non-final stage of said milking, at which said feeding of said milking animal is terminated, is related to said step of drawing milk individually from each of the teats of said milking animal.

10 4. The method of claim 3 wherein said non-final stage of said milking, at which said feeding of said milking animal is terminated, is a stage when said drawing of milk individually from the teats of said milking animal is finished for one, two or three of the teats of said milking animal.

15 5. The method of claim 1 wherein

- an expected milk yield is determined for said milking animal for said milking; and

- said non-final stage of said milking, at which said feeding of said milking animal is terminated, is selected as a stage of said milking, at which a selected percentage of said expected milk yield has been drawn from said milking animal.

20 6. The method of claim 5 wherein

- an expected milk yield is determined for each of the teats of said milking animal for said milking; and

25 - said non-final stage of said milking, at which said feeding of said milking animal is terminated, is selected as a stage of said milking, at which a selected percentage of any of said expected milk yields has been drawn from said milking animal.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein

- a time left to complete said milking is determined repeatedly during said milking; and

- said non-final stage of said milking, at which said feeding of said milking animal is terminated, is selected as a stage of
5 said milking, at which a selected time is left to complete said milking.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said time left to complete said milking, which is determined repeatedly during said milking, is calculated each time based on an expected milk
10 yield for said milking animal for said milking, and the milk yield, which has been drawn from said milking animal.

9. The method of any of claims 1-8 wherein

- said milking station (9) includes an exit space (12) that have to be passed by said animals while leaving said milking station, said exit space being provided with a second feeding device (22) for feeding said animals intermittently or continuously with feed; and said method comprises the further steps of:

- allowing said milking animal to enter said exit space after
20 the milking of said milking animal has been finished;

- feeding said milking animal intermittently or continuously with feed in said exit space by means of said second feeding device (22);

- allowing a further milking animal to enter said milking
25 station (9);

- milking said further milking animal in said milking station (9) by means of said milking machine (14); and

- terminating said feeding of said milking animal in said exit space at a non-final stage of the milking of said further milking animal in order to secure that said milking animal in said exit space has terminated to consume the feed when the
5 milking of said further milking animal is finished.

10. The method of any of claims 1-9 wherein said method is performed individually for each milking animal allowed to enter said milking station (9).

11. The method of any of claims 1-10 wherein

10 - said milking station (9) is an automated milking system, said milking machine (14) is an automatic milking machine provided for automatically milking said animals, and said first feeding device (21) is an automatic feeding device provided for automatically feeding said animals intermittently or
15 continuously with feed; and

- said method is performed automatically.

12. A computer program product (37) loadable into the internal memory of a computer (35) comprising software code portions for initiating the method of any of claims 1-11 when said product
20 is run on said computer.

13. A computerized system (35) for controlling and monitoring a milking station, said computerized system being provided with the computer program product of claim 12.

14. A milking station (9) for milking animals including:

25 - an entry provided for allowing a milking animal to enter said milking station (9);

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

- a milking machine (14) provided for milking said milking animal; and

- a first feeding device (21) provided for feeding said milking animal intermittently or continuously with feed,
5 characterized in that

- said first feeding device (21) is provided for terminating said feeding of said milking animal at a non-final stage of said milking in order to secure that said milking animal has terminated to consume the feed when said milking is finished.

10 15. The milking station of claim 14 comprising a cleaning device provided for cleaning the teats of said milking animal, a device (17) provided for applying teat cups to the teats of said milking animal, and a device (19) provided for drawing milk from said milking animal; and

15 - said first feeding device (21) is provided for terminating said feeding of said milking animal at a non-final stage of said milking, which depends on actions performed by said cleaning device, said device provided for applying teat cups to the teats of said milking animal, and said device provided for
20 drawing milk from said milking animal.

16. The milking station of claim 14 wherein said milking machine (14) is provided for drawing milk individually from each of the teats of said milking animal; and

- said first feeding device (21) is provided for terminating said feeding of said milking animal at a non-final stage of said milking, which depends on actions performed by said milking machine (14).

17. The milking station of claim 16 wherein said non-final stage of said milking, at which said feeding of said milking animal is terminated, is a stage when said drawing of milk individually from the teats of said milking animal is finished
5 for one, two or three of the teats of said milking animal.

18. The milking station of claim 14 wherein said first feeding device (21) is provided for terminating said feeding of said milking animal at a non-final stage of said milking, which is a stage of said milking, at which a selected percentage of an
10 expected milk yield has been drawn from said milking animal.

19. The milking station of claim 18 wherein said first feeding device (21) is provided for terminating said feeding of said milking animal at a non-final stage of said milking, which is a stage of said milking, at which a selected percentage of an
15 expected milk yield from a single teat of said milking animal has been drawn from said teat of said milking animal.

20. The milking station of any of claims 14-19 wherein said milking station (9) is an automated milking system; said milking machine (14) is an automatic milking machine provided
20 for automatically milking said animals; and said first feeding device (21) is an automatic feeding device provided for automatically feeding said animals intermittently or continuously with feed, and for automatically terminating said feeding of said milking animal at a non-final stage of said
25 milking.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY